## We claim:

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- A remote control system for controlling a plurality of secure containers, each
  having a controllable lock mechanism, the system comprising:
- 4 a) means for inputting a command to enable or disable a particular container;
  - a control computer for assembling an instruction operative to enable or disable the particular container in response to the command, the instruction comprising an identifier specific to the particular container;
    - c) transmitting means, operatively connected to the control computer, for conditioning the instruction for wireless transmission and wirelessly transmitting the conditioned instruction to the containers; and
    - d) each container comprising container control means for receiving the transmitted instruction and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of that container if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that container.
- The control system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the transmitting means comprises a radio transmitter for modulating the conditioned instruction onto a radio signal and for transmitting the modulated radio signal to the containers from an antenna.
- The control system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the frequency of the radio signal is in the range of 450 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz.
- 22 4. The control system as set forth in claim 3 wherein the output power of the radio signal radiated from the antenna is in the range of 5 to 30 watts.
- 5. The control system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the container control means of each container comprises:
- 26 a) a wireless receiver operative for receiving the wirelessly transmitted 27 instruction; and

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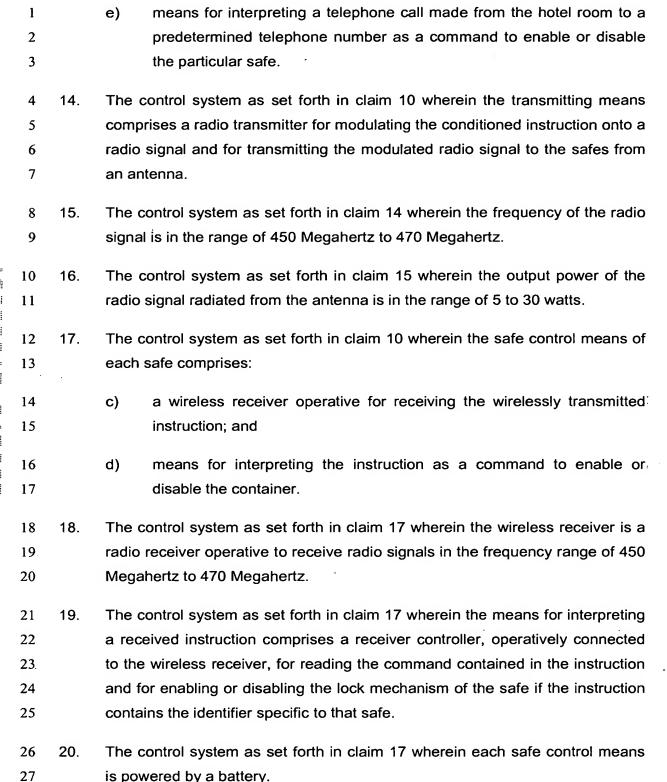
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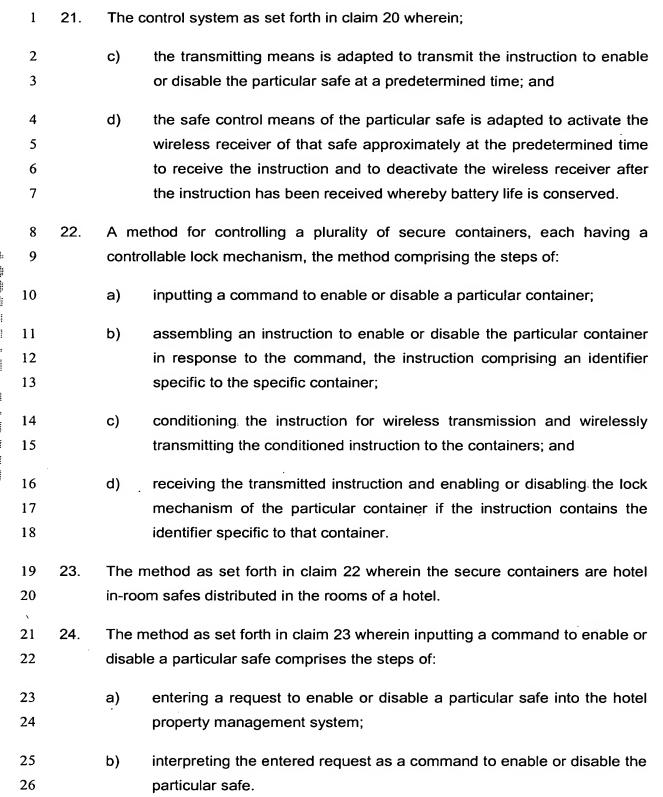
means for interpreting the instruction as a command to enable or 1 b) 2 disable the container. The control system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the wireless receiver is a 3 6. radio receiver operative to receive radio signals in the frequency range of 450 4 5 Megahertz to 470 Megahertz. 7. The control system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the means for interpreting a 6 7 received instruction comprises a receiver controller, operatively connected to 8 the wireless receiver, for reading the command contained in the instruction 9 and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of the container if the 10 instruction contains the identifier specific to that container. 8. 11 The control system as set forth in claim 5 wherein each container control 12 means is powered by a battery. 13 9. The control system as set forth in claim 8 wherein; 14 a) the transmitting means is adapted to transmit the instruction to enable 15 or disable the particular container at a predetermined time; and 16 b) the container control means of the particular container is adapted to 17 activate the wireless receiver of that container approximately at the 18 predetermined time to receive the instruction and to deactivate the 19 wireless receiver after the instruction has been received whereby 20 battery life is conserved. 21 10. A remote control system for controlling a plurality of safes, each having a 22 controllable lock mechanism, the system comprising: 23 a) means for inputting a command to enable or disable a particular safe; 24 a control computer for assembling an instruction operative to enable or b)

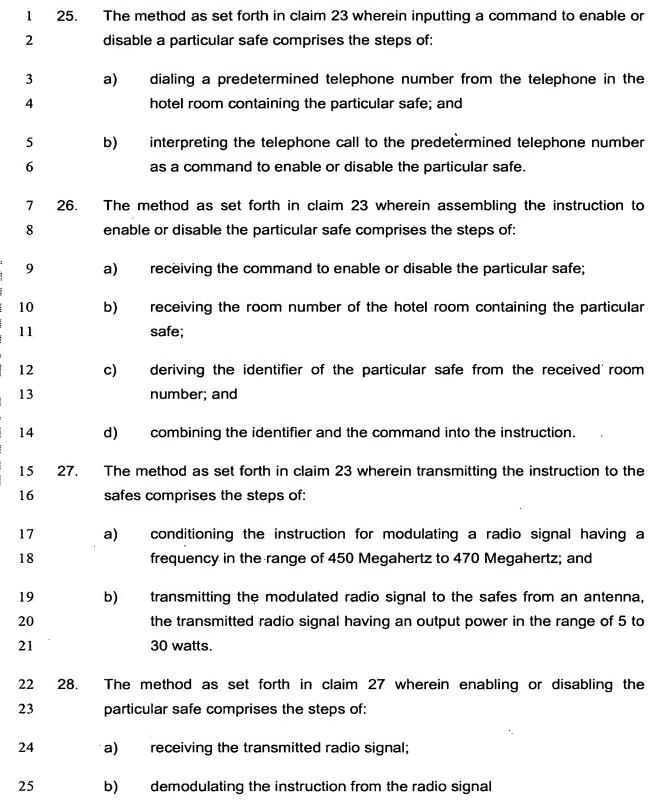
comprising an identifier specific to the particular safe;

disable the particular safe in response to the command, the instruction

1 2 3		c)	transmitting means, operatively connected to the control computer, for conditioning the instruction for wireless transmission and wirelessly transmitting the conditioned instruction to the safes; and
4 5 6		d)	each safe comprising safe control means for receiving the transmitted instruction and for enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of that safe if the instruction contains the identifier specific to that safe.
7 8	11.		control system as set forth in claim 10 wherein the safes are hotel insafes distributed in the rooms of a hotel.
9 10	12.		control system as set forth in claim 11 wherein the means for inputting a nand to enable or disable a particular safe comprises:
11		a)	a hotel property management system;
12 13		b)	a first communications link operatively connecting the control computer to the property management system; and
14 15 16		<b>c)</b>	means for interpreting a request entered into the property management system as a command to the control computer to enable or disable the particular safe.
17 18	13.	The control system as set forth in claim 11 wherein the means for inputting command to enable or disable a particular safe comprises:	
19 20		a)	a telephone in a hotel room operatively connected to the hotel telephone system, the hotel room comprising the particular safe;
21 22		b)	a first communications link operatively connecting the telephone system to the hotel property management system;
23 24		c)	a second communications link operatively connecting the control computer to the hotel telephone system
25		d)	a third communications link operatively connecting the property







1		c)	reading the command contained in the instruction; and	
2		d)	enabling or disabling the lock mechanism of the particular safe if the	
3			instruction contains the identifier specific to that safe.	
4	29.	A me	ethod for controlling a plurality of secure containers, each having a lock	
5		mech	nanism controlled by a battery-powered control means, the method	
6		comp	prising the steps of:	
7		a)	inputting a command to enable or disable a particular container;	
8		b)	assembling an instruction to enable or disable the particular container	
9			in response to the command, the instruction comprising an identifier	
10			specific to the specific container;	
11		c)	conditioning the instruction for wireless transmission and wirelessly	
12			transmitting the conditioned instruction to the containers; and	
13		d)	receiving the transmitted instruction and enabling or disabling the lock	
14			mechanism of the particular container if the instruction contains the	
15			identifier specific to that container.	
16	30.	The method as set forth in claim 29 wherein conserving the life of the battery		
17		comprises the steps of:		
18		a)	transmitting the instruction to enable or disable a particular container at	
19			a predetermined, time;	
20		b)	activating the wireless receiver of the particular container	
21			approximately at the predetermined time to receive the instruction; and	
22		c)	deactivating the wireless receiver of the particular container after the	
23			instruction has been received whereby battery life is conserved.	
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